

INTELL LIBRARY

RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
—AND—
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL
REPORTS

For 1925.

RISCA :
YENDALL AND CO., LTD., PRINTERS, ETC.

—
1926.

RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RISCA URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL,

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my ANNUAL REPORT as Medical Officer of Health for your District. This Report is drawn up according to instructions in Circular 648 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health, and is known as a Survey Report.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) 4,195.

Population (Census, 1911) 16,746. Estimated (1925) 17,760.

Physical Features.—The District is situated in a narrow valley known as the Ebbw Valley, and extends for a distance of 5 miles. The mountains on each side rise to a height of 1,200 feet. At the lower part of the district the valley widens out considerably.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) 3,200.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 4,200.

Rateable value, £75,984.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £316 12s. 0d.

Social Conditions.—This is wholly an industrial area, the inhabitants being engaged in the production of coal and its bi-products and in the manufacture of steel and tinplates. There are also a few quarries and brick-works in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	330	161	169	Birth Rate, 19.3
	Illegitimate	13	7	6	

The rate for 1924 was 22.6. Rate for England and Wales was 18.3

	Total.	M.	F.	
Deaths	80	91	80	Death Rate, 9.6

The rate for 1924 was 9.8. Rate for England and Wales, 12.2

Infant Mortality.—Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

Males 11. Females. 12. Illegitimate 1. Total 23.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births, 67.0

The Infant Death Rate for England and Wales was 75.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Measles, 7.	Heart Disease, 21.
Whooping Cough, 7.	Arterio Sclerosis, 4.
Diphtheria, 1.	Bronchitis, 13.
Influenza, 6.	Pneumonia, 8.
Encephalitis Lethargica, 4.	Other Respiratory Diseases, 3.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System, 13.	Ulcer of Stomach, 1.
Other Tuberculous Diseases, 2.	Appendicitis, 2.
Cancer, 9.	Nephritis, 1.
Rheumatic Fever, 1.	Puerperal Sepsis, 1.
Diabetes, 1.	Congenital Debility, 9.
Cerebral Haemorrhage, 11.	Violence, 9.
	Other Causes, 39.

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law relief administered by the Relieving Officers in your district during the year was £5097 0s. 3d.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.—No Hospitals are provided or subsidised by the Council. Hospitals available for the area are : Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport ; Royal Infirmary, Cardiff ; Poor Law Infirmary, Newport ; and Newport Corporation Isolation Hospital

will take in cases of Infectious Diseases when they have vacant beds. Small Pox cases are dealt with by the County Council.

No provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless infants in the area.

Ambulance Facilities.—(a) For Infectious Diseases. When required this is provided by the Newport Corporation.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident cases the St. John's Ambulance Association keep a motor ambulance in the district which is always available on payment of the charges.

Maternity and Infant Welfare.—There are two centres (1) at Crosskeys, opened November 23rd, 1917, and meeting every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. (2) at Risca, opened March 23rd, 1917, and meeting every Friday from 10 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

School Clinics.—These are conducted by the County Education Authority and are held at Newport, Mon. There is a travelling Dental Clinic which visits the schools of the district periodically.

Public Health Offices.—A Medical Officer of Health part time and a Sanitary Inspector whole time. The latter also undertakes the duties of Food Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—(a) General. This is carried out by local District Nursing Associations (Risca and Crosskeys) maintaining two district nurses by voluntary contributions. (b) for Infectious Diseases no provision is made under this head.

Midwives.—The number of Midwives in practice in the district is 10. No Midwives are employed or subsidised by the local authority.

Chemical Work.—Any work under this heading is usually carried out by the County Public Analyst.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.
Public Health Act Amendment Act, Part 3.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.
Part II, Streets and Buildings (except certain sections).

Part III, Sanitary (except certain sections).

Part IV, Infectious Diseases (except certain sections).

Part V, Common Lodging Houses.

Part VI, Recreation Grounds.

Section 96.

Housing, etc., Act., 1923.

Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II to V.

Private Act, 1922.

General Bye-Laws of the District, which have recently been re-arranged, such re-arrangement receiving the sanction of the Ministry of Health.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district is furnished by the Abertillery Water Board, of which Risca Council is a constituent authority. The services are laid on separately to each house.

In some parts of the district (outlying buildings and farmsteads) the water for general purposes is obtained from wells, springs and tapped mountain sides. The water is good, but in times of drought inadequate.

In a few instances public supplies such as named, and in existence before water works and facilities offered thereby were locally available, serve the immediate neighbourhood, and it may be said in times of extreme shortage some of these particular supplies are much in demand.

In all cases the water is of a good quality, all protection being afforded against pollution, and samples are periodically taken as a precautionary measure.

Samples recently taken and submitted to the Analyst show the degree of hardness to be moderate with no traces of pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is sewered throughout, and all the premises within 100.0," are connected either by a single private or combined drain, but in each case before the connection to sewer they pass over a disconnecting trap of the type known as the "Windsor," having the advantage of a clearing arm for removing any obstruction, and being set in a chamber immediately within the premises dealt with, coupled with inlet valve and outlet shaft ventilation. Nothing less than 4-in. pipes are used in the drainage schemes of the district.

There are 79 closets, all outside the sewer radius.

SCAVENGING.

Removal of ashes, house and street refuse is carried out by the Council direct, covered motor lorries being used for the most part in collecting. This is disposed of on suitable tipping grounds. Owing to the narrowness of the valley in which this district is situated, it becomes more difficult each year to find suitable tipping grounds, and I am afraid the time is approaching when other arrangements will have to be made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

The number of visits made during 1925 totalled 1,566.

These figures denote a record of visits made on complaint and periodical inspection in connection with the general survey of district.

Analysis shows the foregoing to be made up of internal inspection for damp, rot, and general fittings, and the conditions prevailing in reference to drains, W.C.'s, tanks, etc.; visits and revisits to work of repairs in progress and after completion; and general for due observance of cleaning of premises, collection and storage of refuse.

The district is divided up into three wards for administrative purposes, viz., South, Central and North, and the visits above mentioned are set out as follows over the area:

North Ward	...	597
Central Ward	...	438
South Ward	...	531
		<hr/>
Total	...	1566
		<hr/>

The number of informal notices served during 1925 was 236. Statutory, 145.

These notices, with only a few exceptions, were effectual, some after prolonged reports, the majority forthwith. The few above mentioned refer to notices calling for extensive and expensive works, which were permitted to stand over for weather conditions or for improved financial circumstances.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools is good, but does not exclude the possibility of improvement.

Of the schools, which number six, five are elementary, the other an intermediate or secondary known as Pontywaun County School. Two of the former are practically new buildings, the

remaining three of an earlier period, but have recently received such attention and alteration as to be much improved.

One of the elementary class, known as Crosskeys Old School, is much overcrowded, whilst that known as Waunfawr is standing over coal measures and the whole of that neighbourhood is affected by subsidence. These circumstances call for and receive the necessary attention to sanitary arrangements, such as drains, etc., to keep same in a cleanly condition.

The Intermediate School referred to is in a good condition, a caretaker is resident, and recently additions have been made to cope with altered and overcrowded conditions..

The question of increased school accomodation has engaged the attention of Risca Council for some considerable time, and evidence is now to hand that the matter is taking practical form, for a scheme is being advanced by the Mon. County Authority whereby two new schools are proposed, one at each end of the district area.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS—

It is estimated that 500 houses are required to meet the demand.

MEASURES TAKEN TO MEET SHORTAGE.—

By this Council, in hand	...	56
By Private enterprise, in hand and completed		160
Total		216

OVERCROWDING—

Extent.—The district is overcrowded to such an extent as to call for at least 500 additional houses, as fully that number is occupied by two families and in a few cases three.

Causes.—Supply unequal to requirements.

Measures taken.—Particulars in a foregoing sub-section.

Principal cases.—The following particulars will support previous statements.:

House contained 3 bedrooms.

Occupants—Females, 5 adults, 3 children ; males, 5 adults, 7 children. Total, 20. The figures are given below :

The tenancy contained 2 families.

No. 1 Family—Females : Mother, 3 daughters aged 16, 10, and 3 respectively. Males : Father, 7 sons aged 18, 18, 14, 13, 8, 5, 2, respectively. Total, 12.

No. 2 family—Females : Mother, 3 daughters aged 10, 4, 3, respectively. Males : Father, 3 sons aged 9, 5, 1½, respectively. Total, 8. Total number of occupants of the tenancy, 20.

The larger family have since been granted a house built by a private company.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.—

The general standard of houses in this district is good.

The defects that are found difficult to deal with are those in connection with properties where the lease is nearly run out, and others, if it were not for the prevailing circumstances, would be closed as unfit for habitation, on account of their position, situation and condition.

Details can be summed up in the following :— Want of sufficient headroom, ventilation, light, and non-through-vent or back-to-earth tenancies.

In many cases more care could be exercised by the tenants in use of premises to the mutual economy, benefit and comfort of themselves and management.

GENERAL ACTION AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.—Service of preliminary notices, personal interview with owners and agents, with offers of any assistance possible to them or their contractors, and supply of any information as to ways and means to bring about the desired results.

In some instances (reference to defective drains) and in cases of emergency, Council employees attend to same on receipt of undertaking in writing to pay costs, and in default these are collected with the rates.

UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING, AND SUBSEQUENT HOUSING ACTS AND AMENDMENTS.—Special arrangements are offered to induce owners of premises (described above) to at least make such buildings weatherproof.

In the event of any damage traceable to the tenant's carelessness being discovered as inspections are made, this is pointed out and the offenders cautioned.

Following up the foregoing in reference to dealing with old properties, two schemes of drainage have recently been completed, and one is now in hand where the total houses dealt with number 23, with an approximate cost of £400.

When complaints have been necessitated, in reference to any particular locality, the matters have been dealt with, and are recorded in a former part of the report.

BYELAWS.—We have a set of Bye-laws that seem to cover the immediate needs of the district and govern same in respect of houses, tents, vans and sheds.

All precautions are taken to improve the general public health, and any suggestions of a local origin to their end is readily adopted by the Council, particular reference to destruction of

vermin on and about tipping grounds, and the burning of everything possible, as men are continually engaged for that and disinfection purposes.

Advice is readily given to use of certain household fittings (as described) so that any trouble arising from misuse may be obviated, and a possible nuisance created that would probably bring about an outbreak of infectious disease.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a) total, including (b) and (c)	.....	.....	.....	216
(b) as part of a municipal housing scheme (in hand 56				Nil
(c) By other bodies (in hand 120)	.....	.....	.....	40

I.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Act)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1566
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1566
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	118
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation						56

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	536
--	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 48 of the Housing, Town-planning Act, 1919.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	381
--	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----

2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:	
	(a) by owners	145
	(b) by local Authority in default of owners	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Act.		
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
	(a) by owners	236
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.		
1.	Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing Orders	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
5.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply.

The Milk Supply of the district is good. This statement is made on the Analyst's returns from the laboratory of the Mon. County Council, the County Inspector taking samples for the standard of fats, etc.

The distribution of the milk is by means of floats, carrying churns and pails for service.

Samples were taken by our own inspector for submission to and analysis by the County Pathologist for bacteriological purposes, without discovering the presence of impurities with dangerous effects.

There are 40 retailers of milk registered. There has been no case of refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or producers up to date.

Meat.—(Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924).

Arrangements are made with the butchers of the district as to notification of times of slaughter, number, and special class of animals.

Weekly and intermittent visits are paid to these establishments and reports presented monthly to the Health Committee of the Council, and are attached to the Sanitary Inspector's report.

During such inspections, diseased sections of carcase or organs are declared either from observation superficially or by cutting into the lymphatic glands.

After condemnation arrangements are made to destroy on delivery at retort house of Council's Gas Works.

Periodical visits of inspection are made to shops, stalls, stores and vehicles, where foodstuffs are dealt with wholesale or by retail, particularly meat, and that dealt with under the regulations 1924.

There is no Public Slaughterhouse. Private Slaughterhouses in use :—

		1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	...	3	3	3
Licensed	...	1	1	1
		—	—	—
Total	...	4	4	4
		—	—	—

Other Foods.

All places, shops, stores, vehicles of all descriptions that convey food in any form are made the object of attention by our Inspector, as to cleanliness of person and vehicle, and condition of goods displayed.

No case of food poisoning has occurred within the area during 1925.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council authority.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

Although the inspection of Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., from a structural and sanitary point of view is attended to by our own Inspector, the taking of samples for standard of fats is taken by the County Inspector up to date ; samples for bacteriological tests are attended to by our own man, who is and has been busy for some time with that work ; and full particulars will be recorded in a future report, including the analyst's returns and observations, if any.

Samples have been regularly taken during the period under observation, and it is pleasing to report that no necessity for prosecution was found, proving the quality of the milk retailed in the area.

Structurally the cowsheds have been brought up to regulation standard in reference to drainage, cowshed arrangement, lighting, ventilation, etc., and a decided improvement is shown. Other conditions will receive the necessary attention as soon as weather will allow of the cows being let out on the fields. The latter conditions have reference particularly to new floors, roof raising and repairing, with drainage.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the period 1920-1925 the prevalence of infectious diseases generally has been below the average. During 1922-23-24 there were outbreaks of Diphtheria in the North Ward of the district, due to the presence of "carriers" among the school children, and it was found extremely difficult to get the parents to continue any form of treatment for these children. However, during 1925 there was an improvement.

Small Pox.

Small Pox appeared in 1923, four cases being notified, but by organising a vigorous vaccination campaign, an epidemic was avoided.

Diphtheria antitoxin is promptly used in all cases, the medical practitioners in the district being given a supply by the Council for use in their cases.

The examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens is conducted by the County Bacteriologist. The throats of the children in the schools have been "swabbed" frequently during the period, and other uses made of these facilities.

Schick and Dick Tests.

No use has been made of these tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Measles, Chicken Pox and other non-notifiable diseases have not been prevalent during the year. Influenza was not prevalent, the number of this complaint being four.

No facilities are available in the area for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings.

Premises and articles which have been exposed to infection are disinfected by fumigation with Formalin, and scrubbing with disinfectants.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases ad mitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	44	Nil	3
Scarlet Fever	15	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	2	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	2	1	Nil
Pneumonia	Nil	Nil	7
Other Diseases generally notifiable	Nil	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	4	Nil	1
Other Diseases notifiable locally	Nil	Nil	Nil

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has been found unnecessary to take any action under these Regulations during 1925, or under Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases.					Deaths.			
Age	Pulmonary		Non Pul.		Pulmonary		Non Pul.	
Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1			1					
5				1				
10		5	4	1				
20		4				1		
25	2	3			1	1		
35	3	6			2	1		
45					3			
55					1			
65					1	1		
Totals	5	18	5	2	8	4		

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For Year ended December 31st, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RISCA URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL,
GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to submit my ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

Inspection of District.

During the year 1925, the number of houses visited
totalled 1566.

North Ward	...	597
Central Ward	...	438
South Ward	...	531
		<hr/> 1566 <hr/>

These figures denote a record of visits made on complaint and periodical inspection in connection with general sanitary condition of premises within your Urban area.

A number represent re-visits to work in progress and on completion.

In the majority of cases the work was put in hand as a result of a personal interview with the agent or owner, in others the serious matters were reported to you, and action taken upon your instructions thereon.

In many cases (which would entail very heavy expenditure) I have arranged for attention to roofs, floors, etc., as being the most essential, and in some cases the stripping of roofs have stood over until the weather will allow of their being attended to.

The employees of the Council (acting under instructions) have attended to many complaints, in some cases as a matter of urgency, in others to protect health, these movements have particular reference to drains and mains, the costs in each case being recoverable from the owners.

Milk Supply.

Samples were taken regularly and it is pleasant to report the returns were all satisfactory with the result that no prosecutions were necessary, some of the samples showing a higher percentage of fats than demanded.

Whilst we have retailers who do not exercise the necessary care and attention to the cleanliness of clothing, utensils, vehicles etc., they call for special observation, and very readily comply with orders issued, but delegate these duties to others who again have to be cautioned.

We have others who supply milk by retail, who are very clean, and rarely does the need arise to apply a caution as to their general conduct.

Samples have been taken for bacteriological tests, and submitted to the County Hall.

Samples for tests of fats standard are regularly taken by the County Inspector whose reports are very satisfactory.

The question of provision of accomodation for utensils and their cleaning, only a few are yet separately arranged but it is hoped during the next few months to have an improvement in that direction.

In a few cases pressure has been applied to secure the proper cleansing of the vehicles used to convey the milk throughout the district, but again, I am glad to report the compliance, and the necessary work done.

Attention has been drawn to the importance of personal cleanliness, and that of clothing worn at milking time and in most cases the old practice of taking down the old hat and overall, if any, for the purpose of milking has been abandoned. Finally, I am glad to report a cleaner service than hitherto effected under the new milk orders.

Sewage Disposal.

During the year 36 connections have been made to sewers in various parts of the district.

North Ward	...	10
Central Ward	...	9
South Ward	...	17

In the same period there were presented, approved, and passed, plans for 216 houses, several bungalows, shop fronts and other alterations.

Food Inspection.

The number of visits to premises for the inspection of food was 486, during which 1,243 tins of Fish, Fruit, Vegetables and Meat were examined, 315 being condemned and destroyed.

Tins Examined.

Tomatoes	Salmon	Fruit	Milk	Beans	C.Beef	Herrings
210	254	172	96	174	206	20

Tins Condemned, 315.

In connection with butchers' shops inspection, a quantity of meat was surrendered, consisting of :—

Beef, Bacon, Beasts, Pigs' and Sheeps' Liver and Lungs, 802 lbs.

I am pleased to say that every facility was given by the tradesmen to examine and inspect their stocks.

Lodging Houses.

There is only one Lodging House in your area, and that is situated at 68 St. Mary Street.

No complaints have been received, and although periodically visited for inspection, nothing has been found that could not be dealt with, without the Council's special attention.

Slaughterhouses.

Periodical inspection of slaughterhouses in the district is and has been made, with regard to cleanliness, drainage, etc.

A very small portion of the meat sold within your area is killed and dressed here, as a number of the butchers find it more convenient to attend Newport markets and purchase supplies ready for sale.

This applies to English and Foreign stock. The retailers who would prefer to kill their own find a difficulty in obtaining permission to use one of the available slaughterhouses.

The majority argue that in view of the Council having the matter of the provision of a public abbatoir under consideration, they think the risk of a private speculation too great, and prefer waiting for further developments in that direction.

During the period under observation, 899 carcasses of animals were examined under the Meat Regulations.

Cattle 62. Sheep 55. Pigs 135. Lambs 598. Calves 49. Total 899.

Housing.

The houses of the district are still much overcrowded, but the question of providing further accommodation is seriously engaging the attention of the Council, inasmuch as arrangements are now under consideration for the erection of 300 houses.

Plans presented and approved, 216.

Factories and Workshops.

The factories and workshops of the district have been inspected from time to time and any defect has had attention.

Provision of lavatory accommodation, ventilation, and light. Whilst there are some few cases where considerable attention is called for, these await developments in certain sections of the particular industry, when the necessary provisions are provided.

Collection and Storage of Refuse.

A number of notices have been sent out during the year calling for due collection of refuse, and depositing same conveniently for the scavengers.

In some parts of the district there are dumps where for convenience, a considerable amount of trade and domestic refuse is deposited without consideration of the health of the district. This action presents a difficulty because the defaulters are not known.

This work is now attended to with the use of motor lorries, which are covered to prevent refuse dropping and dirt creation.

Inspection of G.W.R. Canal.

I have periodically inspected the section of the canal running through your district (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) and when I have had cause to complain of any deposits of animals or such like, that would probably give offence, I have always found every assistance to deal with same from the Canal Depot of the G.W.R. Co.

The trouble most frequently met with is undoubtedly created by the tenancies abutting the tow-path, who without consideration as to results to health, throw carcasses of dead animals, fowls, etc.,

into the canal. These decompose, and apart from the offensive smells that emanate therefrom, are likely to have far-reaching effects on the health of children who play near, and that of adults who use the tow-path for walking especially in the summer season

Van Dwellings.

During 1925, frequent visits have been paid to the ground which the van dwellers use, such as gipsies and travelling hawkers, and in no case have they been allowed to remain for more than 24 hours, unless in case of damage to the vehicles, such as a defective wheel which prevents them proceeding without repairs.

I am also pleased to say that complaints have been fewer from people who reside near the pitches usually occupied by such people.

In only a few cases has it been necessary to ask the assistance of the Police, which when needed, is always readily granted.

General.

Drains cleaned, 94. Houses disinfected, 56. Cesspits attended to, 24. New W.C. pans provided and set, 16. Drains tested, 104.

Roof repairs effected, 52. Floors repaired, 26.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

D. THOMAS, C.R.S.I. & M.I.,

Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other foods.

